

House Republican Press Release

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Noujaim Votes for Transportation Package



Measure Passes House of Representatives; Heads to Senate

HARTFORD- The state House of Representatives today passed a landmark 10-year, \$2.3 billion transportation package, which was agreed upon by Governor M. Jodi Rell and legislative Democrats. The bill provides for a massive overhaul and improvement of Connecticut's highways and mass transit in all corners of the state. It also manages to do this without instituting tolls or increasing taxes. Representative Selim Noujaim (R-Waterbury) voted in favor of the measure and said it would mean tremendous improvements for not only his district, but the entire state.

"Commuters on I-84 don't need to be told why we are doing this," said Representative Noujaim. "The conditions experienced on all of Connecticut's major roadways have deteriorated to unacceptable conditions, and they are routinely over-crowded and congested with every commute. This measure is a tremendous leap forward in addressing the problem comprehensively and state-wide."

Representative Noujaim spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives this afternoon ensuring that the Waterbury Rail Station was not excluded from the project, noting that Waterbury is the only city in Connecticut without a public transportation system. The bill now includes capital improvements on the Branch Lines, including rail station and parking improvements.

Items scheduled for immediate implementation in the bill are environmental planning for expansion on I-95 from Branford to the Rhode Island border, a preliminary design for widening I-84 between Danbury and Waterbury, as well as planning for improvements to Routes 2 and 2A, the expansion of Route 9, and upgrading of the Pequot Bridge.

The bill also implements a New Britain – Hartford bus way, restoration of commuter service between New haven and Springfield, MA, rail car renovation for use on Shore Line East, and the New Haven-Springfield Line, as well as parking and stations for those lines. Approximately \$1 billion of the cost for the project will be bonded, while the remainder of the cost will be paid for by the federal government and gross receipts tax on petroleum products. The gross receipts tax will not be increased.

The bill now heads to the Senate for action there.